

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO[†]

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

1919 Annual Meeting.—The Committee on Scientific Program is working on the 1919 meeting of the State Medical Society. The problems of rehabilitation and peace, together with the return of many members from the military, will make this session of universal interest and importance. It is needless to say that the attendance will be large. Preparation of a program that shall be worthy these stirring and strategic times is an onerous task. . . .

Shell Shock.—The term shell shock is a misnomer and should be abolished, according to an article on the nature of war nervousness in soldiers in "War Medicine," published by the American Red Cross, and the simple word, "nervousness," substituted.

Under the heading of shell shock, says the author, have been massed cases of amnesia, anergic stupor, sleeplessness, nightmare, mutism, functional blindness, tremors, palsies, and further anxiety neuroses, occurring, not only under fighting strain but in individuals who, failing in self confidence, suffer doubts and apprehensions while still waiting for transport overseas.

The term shell shock founded on false premises has served not only to suggest an incorrect etiology, but by its pitiful and romantic sound, has tended to perpetuate symptoms and to excite no determination in the mind of the sufferer to recover his control, or, in the fighting man still to endure. So far is it from making an appeal to conscience or to discipline, that it stifles both, and stultifies effort towards cure. The name is a mistake. We must be rid of it. Let us have instead a true term which will be neither a compromise nor a technicality unintelligible to the mind of the soldier. . . .

Department of Industrial Medicine.—Beginning next month with the issue for January, 1919, the JOURNAL will institute a Department of Industrial Medicine. The reasons for this department are as definite as the functions it will endeavor to subserve.

Physicians have learned many lessons from their military experience. They have learned discipline and organization. This lesson will be speedily taken to heart in the approaching development of group diagnosis and treatment. The future organization of the profession will be compact and closely related to governmental insurance problems, industrial needs and a better understanding of public health needs. Doctors must organize as they have never organized before, or their economic independence will cease.

Physicians have learned many lessons in preventive medicine. The enormous impetus to industrial development in the era ahead, together with the large recognition of the responsibility of the public and the employer for the worker and his health, will force the physician to exercise an intelligent interest in industrial medicine. . . .

EXCERPTS FROM ORIGINAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

From an Article on "Intracranial Complications of Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat.—A Report of Some Unusual Cases with Autopsy Findings," by Hill Hastings, M. D., Los Angeles, Calif.—Intracranial complications that (Continued in Front Advertising Section, on Page 16)

[†] This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA[†]

By F. N. SCATENA, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

A written examination, in addition to those previously scheduled, was held in San Francisco on November 16, 17, and 18, 1943. This additional examination was held in conformance with the rule of the Board to hold frequent examinations, both written and oral, to assist in licensing qualified doctors at as early a date as possible after application.

An oral examination was held on November 18, 1943, at the Board office in San Francisco.

News

"Dr. F. R. DeLappe of Modesto today was succeeded on the State Board of Medical Examiners by Dr. Herbert S. Chapman of Stockton. The appointment was made by Governor Warren. Doctor DeLappe had served continuously on the Board since 1931, when he was appointed by the late Governor James Rolph, and was president most of the time. Doctor Chapman is president of the staff of Dameron Hospital in Stockton, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a member of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association. His term will expire in January, 1947. . . ." (Modesto Bee, October 19, 1943.)

"The State Board of Medical Examiners today had announced seventy-five persons were successful in examinations for physicians and surgeons, held in Los Angeles on August 10, 11, and 12. Eighty-one persons took the examination and a passing percentage of 75 was required, Dr. Frederick N. Scatena, secretary of the Board, said. The highest mark, 91 per cent, was scored by Isaac Murphy Berry, Los Angeles, a graduate of the College of Medical Evangelists. . . ." (Los Angeles Daily News, October 18, 1943.)

"Resumption of the emergency maternity and infant care program was announced last night by Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, director of the State Department of Public Health. Government paid maternity care for wives of service men and medical care for their sick infants is available under the program, which started in July and is now operating in thirty-five counties, including Humboldt. Suspended on September 15, due to lack of funds, resumption is possible with telegraphic information from the United States Children's Bureau that funds are available immediately from a new congressional appropriation of \$18,600,000. . . ." (Eureka Times, October 2, 1943.)

"In spite of shortage of medical facilities in many places, the picture of civilian health in the United States is generally good, according to data from the United States Public Health Service, the War Manpower Commission, and the Federal Works Agency. In 1942, the death rate was the lowest on record, 10.3 per thousand; the birth rate had risen to 20.7 from 18.7 per thousand in 1941, and the maternal mortality rate dropped for the thirteenth consecutive year. To compensate for the shortage of doctors in certain areas, the Public Health Service and the War Manpower Commission are taking many steps, such as seek-

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[†] The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.